

SSD/Maplewood- Richmond Heights

MAY 2024

Dear MRH Families,

The days are getting warmer, which can only mean one thing- it's that time of year again! As we approach the end of the school year, we hope everyone can take some time to celebrate all the hard work, growth, and achievements that our students have accomplished this year.



This final stretch brings a mix of emotions: anticipation for summer adventures and the satisfaction of goals achieved. Whether your child is wrapping up another chapter in their academic journey or preparing for a new one, we are immensely proud of their progress.

Let's finish the school year strong and look forward to the well-deserved rest and fun that summer brings! Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the year. Here's to a fantastic conclusion to the school year!

In Partnership,

Emily

Emily Kresyman Ed. S

Maplewood Richmond Heights Director of Special Education

created with the support of AI technology

This month in MRH

MAY 7th- Early Release Day

MAY 14th- Community Conversations 7-8pm @ Schlafly
Bottleworks
MAY 16th- Board of Education Meeting 7pm Research and Design
Center
MAY 17th-18th- Taste of Maplewood
MAY 27th- NO SCHOOL- District Closed
MAY 30th- Last day of School and Graduation



Summer Learning Opportunities



Summer Programming / Overview

If you are the parent of a child who will be entering Kindergarten in fall 2024, I strongly encourage you to consider enrolling your child in Summer Journey. We have noticed that when these young students meet their teachers, fellow students, and our staff during the summer, they are eager to return in the fall and find that "first day of school" experience to be a positive one.

mrhschools.net

STL County Library

Did you know that the St. Louis County Library offers more than just books? They offer a whole host of events at each of their locations throughout the County. Visit their [events webpage](#) today and discover what interests you!



Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis

- Discover the what, why and how behind the incredible work we get to do every day for individuals with disabilities. Download our latest newsletters and area guides to learn more about the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis and ways you can get involved with programs or events.
- **IT'S ARRIVED.** [2024 Summer Guide](#) can now be viewed and printed. Plus, check out these resources:
- [Tips on Finding a Leisure Program Right for You](#)
- [Online Summer Program Listing](#)
- [Program Search Tool](#)



Miriam Summer Camp Taking Registrations

[Registration is open for the 2024 Miriam School and Learning Center's academic and therapeutic summer camps!](#) Individualized instruction, research-based interventions, and certified/licensed professionals will ensure your child builds confidence and skills in reading, writing, speech, or social/emotional development

Learn More about SEF's Kid-to-Camp Program

SEF's [Kid-to-Camp](#) program provides financial assistance to families of children served by Special School District so they can attend camps. Funds are awarded based on financial need and student benefit. Learn more about SEF's camp options, including day and overnight camps for winter, spring, and summer breaks. Applications are accepted year-round. Apply early - some camps have limited open spots.



STL County Parks

Did you know that St. Louis County Parks and Recreation offers over 400 programs and events each year? From hiking and biking trails to ice rinks, pools and camps, they have something for everyone. Head over to their [website](#) and see what they have to offer your family.



STARKLOFF DISABILITY INSTITUTE



Dream Big aims to show students with disabilities that they can do many things that their non-disabled peers can do, and they should not limit their career goals. By participating in Dream Big, students will gain the confidence to explore different career paths and the understanding of the steps necessary to successfully live independently as a person with a disability. By participating in Dream Big, students can expect to:

- **Interact with current employees in high demand careers**
- **Visit leading companies to discover the vast array of careers available for them to pursue**
- **Engage in a robust curriculum on adulting with a disability, discussing disability history and pride, self advocacy, independent living and life after high school**
- **Fellowship and interact with like-minded peers**

Scan here to learn more and sign up:



Eligibility Requirements:

- Students need to be in middle or high school
- Have a disability
- Be willing to be engaged and participate

"This program and its parent organization are not sponsored by, affiliated with, nor endorsed by the Special School District of St. Louis County, its individual schools, or its partner districts."

Health and Wellness

Summer break is just around the corner. Thankfully St. Louis offers many opportunities for families to get out and about together. [Explore St. Louis](#) has a robust directory of local museums and galleries. Get out and see what St. Louis has to offer.

explore **st.louis**

SSD FACE Department

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-24 - SECOND SEMESTER



JANUARY

- 3 Students Return
- 5 Hub Huddle: CAASTLC
- 24 Lunch and Learn with Mizzou PAWS (Inclusive Post-Secondary Options)

FEBRUARY

- 1 Virtual Open House
- 2 Hub Huddle: CAASTLC
- 7 Virtual Workshop: Behavioral Strategies in the Home & Community, Part 2
- 8 Family Cafe
- 8 American Sign Language, Class 1
- 15 American Sign Language, Class 2
- 22 American Sign Language, Class 3
- 24 Family Academy
- 28 Lunch & Learn with Alternative to Guardianship
- 29 American Sign Language, Class 4

MARCH

- 1 Hub Huddle: Dpt. of Vocational Rehabilitation & CAASTLC
- 7 American Sign Language, Class 5
- 14 Family Cafe
- 14 American Sign Language, Class 6
- 28 American Sign Language, Make-Up Session

APRIL

- 2 Virtual Workshop: 10 Steps to Effective Advocacy
- 5 Hub Huddle: Higher Education Consortium & CAASTLC
- 11 Family Cafe
- 17 Family Leadership Institute - Day 1
- 18 Virtual Open House
- 24 Lunch and Learn with St. Louis Arc's Next Program - Helping Youth Prepare for What's Next
- 24 Family Leadership Institute - Day 2

MAY

- 1 Family Leadership Institute - Day 3
- 3 Hub Huddle: CAASTLC
- 7 Virtual Workshop: Self-Care Isn't Selfish
- 23 Last Day of School for SSD



READY TO REGISTER?

Registration is required for most of these offerings. To join in on the fun, scan the QR code or visit www.ssdmo.org/FACEEvents

NEED MORE RESOURCES?

The Family Toolkit helps families of students receiving special education services navigate SSD supports and services. www.ssdmo.org/FamilyToolkit



Exciting news! The FACE second-semester calendar of events is now available. Packed with enriching activities, it aims to strengthen family/school partnerships. You can access the calendar [here](#). Mark your calendars and join us—your participation is key to fostering a positive and engaging school community.

Want to learn more about opportunities for families in our district? Sign up on our [website](#) for the new FACE-to-face newsletter from SSD's Family and Community Engagement Division. Scroll to the bottom of the page, look to the right-hand corner, and share your name and email address to stay up to date on our events.



Follow SSD on Instagram!

SSD launched a new Instagram account in October and would love for you to follow. The District will be sharing photos and updates from all across the District, including our students and staff in partner districts. Follow us to stay connected and see what we are up to: www.instagram.com/ssdstlco/

SSD and MRH PAC Information

PAC Families, Summer is around the corner!

Greetings PAC Family! It can be overwhelming figuring out school, insurance, future planning, not to mention what to make for dinner, all while parenting our beautiful kids who require extra attention. We're here to help you navigate the confusing waters of the disability world with our PAC meeting presentations. We want to help you now so your child's future is bright.



Check out our upcoming meeting topics below.

Note: Our PAC meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM, August through May (except March):

- May 8, 2024: Mark your calendars for our in-person celebration at SSD Central office! We are working to make it a one-stop shopping experience that will hook you up with integral resources for your child all in one place.

Come join your PAC family and get that help you haven't had time to ask for.

Rebecca Flieg
President, [SSD Parents Advisory Council](#)

PAC Documents: Please see below for updated meeting information.

- [SSD PAC Agenda for 2/14/24](#)
- [February 2024 PAC Meeting Presentation](#)
- [Meeting Recording for 2/14/24](#)
- [January 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [January 2024 PAC Meeting Presentation](#)



MRH Parent Advisory Council

The MRH Parent Advisory Council offers an opportunity to connect with other parents of students with disabilities and to learn about topics of interest. Please contact MRH parent [Mrs. Kim Gifford](#) if you are interested in participating.

Special Education Foundation (SEF)

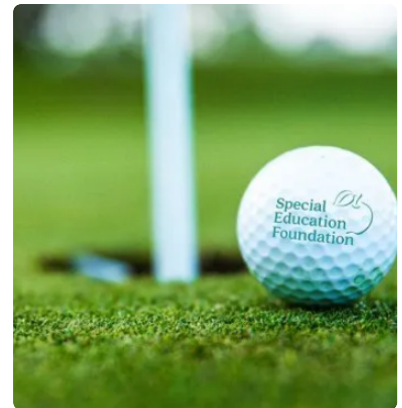


First Annual Starfish Awards

Join the Special Education Foundation's first annual Starfish Awards as we recognize those who have made a significant impact in the lives of students and families supported by the Special School District. Celebrate an evening of excitement at CITYPARK Stadium, home of the St. Louis CITY SC. Together we'll honor special individuals who have made a significant impact through their seemingly small, yet profoundly meaningful actions. Visit www.starfishawards.org to register and see the award

recipients.

Join SEF for Golf and Giving this October! The [22nd Annual Dan McLaughlin Charity Golf Tournament and Auction](#) is back and better than ever! Set to return at the prestigious Norwood Hills Country Club on October 14th, 2024, this event promises a day filled with excitement, camaraderie, and the joy of giving back—all in support of the Special Education Foundation's mission to support students with disabilities in St. Louis County. [Sponsorship and golf registration](#) are now open as well as opportunities to volunteer. Come be a part of this great cause!



Let's Talk!

Let's Talk is an open invitation from Special School District (SSD) to tell us what's on your mind. Let's Talk is an easy way to submit feedback at your convenience directly to the SSD staff member who can help.

- [SSD Parent Advisory Council](#)
- [SSD Partner District - Maplewood-Richmond Heights](#)
- [Academic and Related Services Toolkit](#)

[Click Here to read "Honoring Our History, Shaping Our Future" MRH Strategic Plan](#)



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